

SENATE JUDICIARY

EXHIBIT NO. 23

DATE 2/11/09

URL NO Charlotte Braham

2778 Spokane Creek Road  
East Helena, MT 59635

SB46

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The protection of unborn life is a compelling state interest. The unborn have no way of protecting themselves. As a mother of four children, ages 19, 18, 16, and 13, they need to be protected by those of us that can protect them. Children are viable human beings from the point of conception. A few differences between us and the unborn are environment, dependency and development.

Their environment is the womb and ours is out here. But when a person moves to another country the environment has changed but the person has not. Therefore, just because the unborn is in the womb that environment should not be considered unviable for a human being.

Another issue is dependency. Yes, their level of dependency is greater than ours, they still depend on the mother. But when a person is in the hospital on I-V's their level of dependency increases and they are still considered a person, why should the unborn not receive the same consideration?

Developmental level is a third issue often brought into the picture.

However, we are all at different developmental levels from a 2-year-old, 5-year-old, 13 year-old, and even losing mental abilities in the later years. Do we judge any of these as non-persons?

The unborn have just as much right to live as the rest of us, thus we need to defend their rights as they can not speak for themselves.

As a mother of 4 children, I do not believe you can say they are viable human beings, when they are sung to in the womb they recognize the song and turn or become quiet when sung to out of the womb. They recognize voices when they come out as well. One can not say they are not viable people just because we can't see them.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.